

## County of Los Angeles

## Sheriff's Bepartment Headquarters 4700 Ramona Boulevard Monterey Park, California 91754–2169



LEROY D. BACA, SHERIFF

April 25, 2008

The Honorable Board of Supervisors County of Los Angeles 383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration Los Angeles, California 90012

Dear Supervisors:

## SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT CENTRALIZED HOUSING AND CLASSIFICATION QUARTERLY UPDATE

On January 17, 2006, your Board requested that the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department (Department) provide quarterly updates on the new centralized housing and classification system for inmates including implementation and adherence of new protocols and policies, the timeliness and accuracy of reclassifications, and ongoing staff training.

Since the last quarterly report to your Board dated January 12, 2008, the two Central Housing Units (North and South) have continued their daily monitoring of the various inmate populations that must be housed separately due to security level or special handling status. The regular movement of these groups of inmates into housing locations that better reflect their growing (or decreasing) population will thereby maximize the use of available beds within each jail facility.

During February 2008, two ongoing maintenance projects have severely impacted housing. The replacement of glass on every floor of the Twin Towers Correctional Facility resulted in the loss of between 192 - 300 beds at a time. The refurbishment of the showers and toilets in the large dormitories at Men's Central Jail closed between 100 - 140 beds. The loss of these beds, along with the increase of the average daily inmate population to nearly 20,000 necessitated the use of approximately 100 beds at Men's Central Jail, which were ordered closed by Judge Dean Pregerson in September 2006. The Central Housing Unit-South monitors these beds and vacates them as the fluctuations in daily inmate population permit. It is anticipated that these beds will be fully vacated when the two maintenance projects conclude in June 2008.

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The Central Housing Units are a fully integrated and critical component of the inmate housing process within the Los Angeles County Jail system. From monitoring the timely processing of inmates within the Inmate Reception Center, to maintaining the integrity of security-level based housing, to ensuring the most efficient use of the limited number of inmate beds available, the Central Housing Units' work increases jail safety and security and reduces Department liability.

The centralized housing and classification system has been fully implemented and thoroughly evaluated to ensure an efficient classification system that maximizes safety and security for staff and inmates alike while mitigating liability for the Department. The system remains stable and no significant changes are anticipated. Based on the above, this will be the final Centralized Housing and Classification Unit Report to your Board.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Chief Alexander Yim, Correctional Services Division, at (213) 893-5017.

Sincerely,

LEROY D. BACA

SHERIFF